

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following paragraph beginning at page 1, line 2:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

The present application is a 35 U.S.C. §§ 371 national phase conversion of PCT/EP2003/009110 filed 18 August 2003, which claims priority of Austrian Application No. A 1367/2002 filed 12 September 2002. The PCT International Application was published in the German language.

Please insert the following section heading at page 1, line 3:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 29, with the following rewritten paragraph:

To reliably avoid uncontrolled escape of metal melt from the mold during the starting phase of the casting process, it is customary for to use a start-up strand to be introduced into the mold before casting commences, the start-up strand ~~which~~ substantially but not necessarily completely closes up the exit cross section of the mold cavity and is only discharged from the mold by means of a pair of driving rolls once a solid join has been formed between the introduced melt and the start-up strand head and a pronounced strand shell of sufficient thickness along the mold cavity walls, ~~to be introduced into the mold before casting commences~~. This start-up operation requires at least one new start-up strand head to be coupled to the start-up strand each time the casting installation is restarted. A start-up strand of this type, as is used in the case of strip steel casting molds formed by wide side walls and narrow side walls, is known, for example, from US-A-4,719,960.

Please insert the following section heading at page 4, line 11:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following section heading at page 13, line 8:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please insert the following section heading at page 13, line 31:

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT